

Smart Expected To Take Stand In Her Defense

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EXETER — Attorneys Paul Twomey and Mark Sisti will take up the defense of Pamela Smart today, and a source close to the case said it is expected Smart will take the stand in the next two days.

The defense's witness list includes all 67 people on the prosecution's witness list, as well as an additional 10 names. Among them are Smart's mother, father and sister. Smart's name is not on the list, but a source said last week she will most likely take the stand on her own behalf.

The defense's case is expected to end tomorrow, with juror deliberations beginning as early Wednesday, bringing a

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close to the case which has generated interest across the country for the past two weeks.

Television, magazine, newspaper and radio reporters have flocked to the Rockingham County Courthouse in Exeter since the start of the case. Media ranging from Newsweek to Entertainment

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PAMELA SMART is expected to take the stand this begins presenting its case in her accomplice-to-m could reach the jury before week's end.

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ment Tonight have given coverage to the story of murder, secrets and betrayal, which has been televised live on WMUR-TV.

Despite the live coverage, members of the public have arrived at the courthouse as early as 3 a.m. to get one of the 30 coveted seats available to them in the courtroom.

Smart, 23, is charged with conspiracy to commit murder, accomplice to first-degree murder and witness tampering in connection with the May 1 shooting death of her husband Gregory, 24.

Gregory Smart, an insurance salesman at Metropolitan Life in Nashua, was shot once in the head as he returned to his Derry home after work.

Pamela Smart's alleged teenage lover, William Flynn, 16, has admitted firing the .38 caliber hollow point bullet to the head which killed Smart while his friend Patrick "Pete" Randall held him down.

Vance Lattime Jr., 18, has admitted to providing the murder weapon — taken from his father's collection — and driving the getaway car.

In return for their testimony at the trial, the state agreed to accept a plea from Flynn to a second-degree murder charge, and from Randall and Lattime to accomplice to second-degree murder, although they originally faced first-degree charges which carry a maximum penalty of life in prison without parole.

While the second-degree charges are also punishable by up to life in prison, the state will recommend a sentence of 40 years, with 12 deferred, for Flynn and Randall, and 30 years, with 12 deferred, for Lattime.

Under state law, the teens can apply every two years for sentence reductions. That option is not available for first-degree murder convictions, Judge Douglas Gray said last week.

Randall, Lattime, Flynn and 16-year-old Cecilia Pierce — who secretly recorded conversations with Smart which police say incriminate Smart in the murder of her husband — have all testified at the trial for the prosecution.

Attorneys for the defense can call the teens back to the stand for further testimony.

The teens testified that it was Smart who devised and plotted the murder and that Flynn carried it out because he loved her and was afraid she would leave him if he didn't.

If Smart takes the stand on her own behalf, she will have the opportunity to refute the teens' allegations and explain statements she made on the tape recordings played for the jury last week.

While she would not confirm whether her sister would take the stand, Beth Wojas said if Smart chooses to testify, "it will clarify some of the subject matter discussed on the tapes and help a jury reach a verdict of not guilty."